

A Fact A Day About Iowa City

Clear Creek Cemetery

On the so-called "State Farm" or "Stage Farm", more than a century ago, the first cemetery located in Clear Creek township, and one of the very first mapped out in Johnson county, was established by the Clear Creek Cemetery association. That corporation came into being in 1842. It secured a deed of the land, oldtimers aver, but the records in the court house do not include it.

Other old settlers explain that, through some unexplained, although not necessarily inexplicable, lapse, the pioneers in charge of the semi-public, semi-private enterprise did not record the document. Jesse Berry, famed as the first educator to open a private school in Iowa City, was the Johnson county recorder, in the early 1840's, but Stephen B. Gardner was serving as clerk of the district court at the time in question, and

the transformations and combinations of duties in those days, transferred the recording work to him. Ultimately, by the way, the recordership and treasurer's post were linked for years.

Mr. Gardner's records and documents have come down through the generations in fine shape, as historical material, and the absence of the deed seems to verify the old story that it was never filed. It has been declared that the farm was ultimately sold, and the new owner converted the old cemetery into a grain field, as part of his other acreage thus dedicated.

Searchers, in after years, were quite unable to locate the sacred spot, down through the long, long years, until gruesome wars came to emphasize the cold, harsh philosophy that grain is vital to the preservation of embattled nations; and human life is held cheap by the Old World tyrants. That "history repeats itself" is exemplified in a tiny way—in a diametrically-opposed instance—for the crimsoned soil of Flanders, where even redder poppies bloomed, became a vast cemetery, nearly a century later.

According to investigations made, by oldtime representatives of the Iowa City Press, the ancient cemetery, before the removals followed activities of modern husbandry, was the resting place of several members of the Frost family—Jarvis, Jackson, Lyman, and Doctor Frost. There also slept at first, Henry Headly, Mrs. Samuel Heuston, Mrs. J. R. Trillis and two children, William Clark, Mrs. Clapp, Mr. Keeler, and Thomas King.

At one period in the history of Clear Creek cemeteries, one on the Dowd farm was found to be so platted that a highway intersected a sacred mound, and relatives of the sleeping couple successfully opposed the adoption of the plat.

—J. E. R.

kinds, excepting that for children, will be difficult to find. In some places no relief even for the little ones is yet in sight. The larger mills have up to 75 per cent of their facilities working on contracts for the army and navy. This will keep them busy for at least six months, probably longer, as the industry is hampered by the critical manpower situation.

A bottleneck is developing in men's hosiery. The few items that are appearing on the market are without clocks—the regular color trim.

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OVERALLS — The navy is taking a high percentage of the output of denim firms. This occasions a famine in civilian work jackets, blanket-lined jackets, overalls and dungarees.

Some concerns have had to divert their looms to the making of tent twill. If all denim factories went back to their old lines, it would take a year to build up normal inventories.

Because the army must have proper shelter in winter, the duck yarn program for tents has been greatly enlarged. But on the heels of this demand comes word that the armed forces need insulation fabric for 300,000 miles of field wire. Looms that now make carpets and heavy household fabrics must be switched to the manufacture of tents and wire cover-